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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--25 APRIL 1962

1. GROMYKO'S SPEECH TO SUPREME SOVIET YESTERDAY:

GROMYKO, WHILE USING THE EXPECTED HARSH LANGUAGE ON NUCLEAR TESTING, LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE USSR HOPES A NEW ROUND OF TESTING WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH BILATERAL TALKS ON BERLIN. HE ENVISIONS THESE AS PRODUCING "SPECIFIC RESULTS" FOR SUBMISSION EITHER TO A FOUR POWER SUMMIT OR TO ANOTHER KENNEDY-KHRUSHCHEV MEETING. THERE WAS AGAIN NO REFERENCE TO A TIME LIMIT ON BERLIN.

2. ATTITUDES ON US TEST RESUMPTION:

A. WE HAVE HEARD FROM THREE OF THE NON-ALIGNED EIGHT AT THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE: THE UAR OPPOSES CONCERTED ACTION BY THE EIGHT AND KNOWS OF NO PLAN TO SUPPORT A POSSIBLE SOVIET WALKOUT--AMBASSADOR BADEAU EXPECTS A BLAST SIMILAR TO THAT MADE AGAINST THE SOVIET TESTS; NIGERIA TENDS TOWARD THE WESTERN POSITION IN THE CONFERENCE; INDIA FEELS THE TESTS WILL HAVE "MOST SERIOUS EFFECTS" ON THE TALKS BUT THREATENS NO WALKOUT.

B. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE ITS EXPECTED PUBLIC PROTEST. LEFT WING GROUPS IN TOKYO HAVE THREATENED SIT-DOWN STRIKES IN FRONT OF OUR EMBASSY. SOME 500 JAPANESE SECURITY POLICE, STANDING BY TO MAINTAIN ORDER, HAVE ALREADY HAD A BRUSH WITH 100 PROTESTING STUDENTS.

3. LAOS:

A. KONG LE'S DEPARTURE ON A TOUR OF THE BLOC AND A SIMILAR TRIP BY THE PRO-SOUVANNA COMMANDER AT PHONG SALY ARE FURTHER INDICATIONS OF INCREASING COMMUNIST INFLUENCE OVER THESE LEADERS.

B. WE BELIEVE THAT VIENTIANE PRESS REPORTS OF HEAVY FIGHTING AT NAM THA ARE EXAGGERATED. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE STEP-UP IN AIRLIFT ACTIVITY TO NORTHERN LAOS [REDACTED] 50X1  
REFLECTED NORMAL SUPPLY OPERATIONS AND NOT PREPARATIONS FOR A LARGE-SCALE RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING. [REDACTED] 50X1

C. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, WHO IS ABOUT TO DEPART LAOS ON LEAVE, HAS AGAIN STATED THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF A SETTLEMENT DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON THE US, AND HAS INDICATED THAT THE USSR WAS PREPARED TO WAIT INDEFINITELY. HE DESCRIBED LAOS AS HAVING DROPPED FROM FIRST TO THIRD OR FOURTH PLACE AS AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE, BEING REPLACED BY VIETNAM.

D. THE THAIS ARE NOW TELLING AMBASSADOR YOUNG THAT THEY DETECT SIGNS OF GROWING DOUBTS ON THE PART OF PHOUMI AND HIS SUPPORTERS. PHOUMI IS REPORTED MOVING THE POLICE AND MILITIA TO THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, WHICH HE WOULD HOPE TO CONTROL INDIRECTLY IF FORCED TO ACCEPT A SOUVANNA COALITION. WE AGREE WITH YOUNG THAT, WHILE THE REPORTS MAY OVERSTATE THE DEGREE OF LAO SOFTENING, THEY GIVE SOME HOPE THAT UNANIMOUS REBUFFS OF THE LAOTIAN MISSIONS SEEKING OVERSEAS SUPPORT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BRING PHOUMI AROUND TO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.

4. SOUTH VIETNAM COMMUNISTS THREATEN TO SEEK OUTSIDE HELP:

HANOI YESTERDAY BROADCAST THEIR STATEMENT THREATENING TO CALL ON NORTH VIETNAM FOR MATERIEL AND MEN. THIS IS THE VIET CONG'S FIRST THREAT TO SEEK EITHER OUTSIDE GOVERNMENTAL HELP OR MANPOWER. IT COULD BE USED TO JUSTIFY MORE OPEN SUPPORT BY NORTH VIETNAM OR TO GENERATE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE FOR A CONFERENCE ON SOUTH VIETNAM.

5. CONGO:

YESTERDAY ADOULA ANNOUNCED THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT WITH TSHOMBE HE WOULD SEEK HELP FROM "FRIENDLY" AFRO-ASIAN STATES IN ENDING KATANGA'S SECESSION. HE IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE REQUESTED MILITARY AID OUTSIDE THE UN FRAMEWORK, BUT GHANA AND MALI ARE HOSTILE TOWARD TSHOMBE AND THE SUDAN YESTERDAY CALLED ON THE UN TO CARRY OUT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON KATANGA. ADOULA

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ALSO DEMANDED THAT

THE UN COMMAND BE GIVEN A CLEARER MANDATE ON KATANGA. A NEW ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN ADOULA AND TSHOMBE IS EXPECTED SOON.

6. SYRIAN INSTABILITY CONTINUES:

THE CONCERN OF THE WEEK-OLD SYRIAN GOVERNMENT OVER ITS INSECURITY IS REFLECTED IN THE CANCELLATION ON 23 APRIL OF LEAVES OF ALL SECURITY PERSONNEL. MINOR DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE SAME DATE MAY BE FOLLOWED BY LARGER ONES IN THE NORTHERN CITIES. COUP ATTEMPTS BY EITHER CONSERVATIVE OR PRO-NASIR FACTIONS IN THE ARMY OFFICER CORPS ARE ALSO POSSIBLE.

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7. ARGENTINA:

GUIDO'S DECREE NULLIFYING PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SINCE MID-DECEMBER AND ESTABLISHING FEDERAL CONTROL IN PROVINCES NOT PREVIOUSLY "INTERVENED" SETS THE STAGE FOR AN OPEN CONTEST BETWEEN THE PERONISTAS AND THE GOVERNMENT. THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR HAS ALERTED ITS MEMBERS TO PREPARE FOR A GENERAL STRIKE. PERONISTA CONGRESSIONAL VICTORIES WERE LEFT TO CONGRESS TO NULLIFY

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8. NOTES:

A. THE SUPREME SOVIET "ENDED ITS WORK" TODAY, APPARENTLY WITHOUT A MAJOR ADDRESS BY KHRUSHCHEV. HE HEADS A COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION WHICH WILL REPLACE THE "STALIN CONSTITUTION" OF 1936.

B. THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON WILL REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO RESUME TALKS WITH THE INDONESIANS, BUT IS NOT CONFIDENT HE WILL RECEIVE IT.

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E. COMMUNIST CHINA HAS REPLIED TO INDIA'S NEEDLING ON THE BORDER  
PROBLEM BY CHARGING TWO INDIAN VIOLATIONS EARLIER THIS MONTH.

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